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APPLICANT : Akio ABIKO

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I hereby certify that this paper and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on FEBRUARY 24, 2004.

Richard M. Goldberg

(Name of Registered Representative  
and person mailing)

 Feb. 24,  
2004  
(Signature and Date)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,  
please amend the same as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 5 of this paper.

The Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.